

ABM Treaty will only keep America vulnerable to missile attack, mislead the public about their safety, and tie the hands of the next Administration that may choose to do what is right, not politically or diplomatically expedient.

Finally, we must work with our Allies to address their concerns, interests, and our mutual defense obligations. We stood guard together during the dark days of the Cold War and eventually defeated communism. We must stand together again now and face the threats of the post-cold-war era.

Only through a sustained commitment to a national missile defense system—which can defend the American people from these horrible weapons of mass destruction—can the government fulfill its first responsibility of defending the United States. This is the right and sensible thing to do, and the American people are capable of achieving it. President Reagan understood that almost twenty years ago today.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, on several occasions I have discussed missile defense programs and the importance of moving as quickly as possible to develop and deploy missile defense systems—both theater and national—to protect forces that are deployed around the world and our citizens here at home. Of all the programs designated as “Major Defense Acquisition Programs” by the Office of the Secretary of Defense, only the Airborne Laser program has distinguished itself by being on schedule and on budget while meeting or exceeding all of its technical requirements. The spectacular performance of this program is the standard all defense programs should aspire to.

Our debates on defense programs usually focus on budgets, schedules, performance, requirements, and threats, but seldom do we pause to recognize success; more specifically, we hardly ever acknowledge the human component of success.

The many accomplishments of the Airborne Laser program did not just happen by accident. Rather, the program has succeeded because of the human element; because of the many people who, over the course of the last three decades, have advanced our science and engineering to the point where the United States will be able to put chemical lasers on 747 aircraft and use them to defend America, its interests, and its deployed forces.

Most recently, the Airborne Laser program has succeeded because of the leadership of Col. Mike Booen and Dr. Paul Shennum, both of whom will be leaving the program in April after having driven the Airborne Laser program forward for the last four years. They deserve special recognition for their efforts.

Colonel Booen was named Deputy Airborne Laser Program Director in the summer of 1996 and promoted to Director in November of that year. While

Colonel Booen has been an energetic and tireless advocate for the Airborne Laser program and its people, his latest achievements are just the most recent in a notable career that includes early promotions, academic recognition as a distinguished graduate of the Air Force Academy, and assignments as a Defense Department Manned Space Flight Engineer and Deputy Chief of the Secretary of the Air Force's Staff Group. In recognition of his success Colonel Booen has been selected to become the next Director of the Air Force's System Program Office for the Space-Based Infrared System. It is an assignment of critical importance to our nation's security, and I look forward to continuing to work with Colonel Booen as he resuscitates that program.

Over a distinguished career of 40 years with Boeing, Dr. Paul Shennum has developed a reputation as a leader who leads with energy and integrity, embraces change, encourages innovation, and challenges people to contribute more than they thought they could. Dr. Shennum is one of the rare program managers who can be counted on to provide factual answers when asked a question. He does not give evasive responses, however convenient they may sometimes be for his company or the Pentagon. His straightforward approach with the Pentagon, Congress, and within his industry team has been instrumental in the Airborne Laser's outstanding program performance. I wish him the best in his well-deserved retirement.

The Booen-Shennum team has succeeded because both of these men understand what the word “leadership” means. They know it involves fixing on an objective, setting high, but realistic, standards, and leading the government and industry components of the Airborne Laser team effectively to that objective. They have refused to accept excuses for work that hasn't met their standards. They have inspired their colleagues to accomplish more than many thought possible. They appreciate effort, but expect results.

And it is results, unparalleled in any other defense program, that Mike Booen and Paul Shennum have given us.

Colonel Booen and Dr. Shennum have demonstrated how a government-industry team should act. This program is not a team in name only, thanks to the constant efforts of Colonel Booen and Dr. Shennum. They have caused the team members, including the various defense contractors, industry and government employees to really work together to achieve a common goal.

In their relentless pursuit of excellence, Col. Mike Booen and Dr. Paul Shennum have reminded us that America's defense programs will ultimately succeed or fail because of the people involved. I congratulate them and thank them for doing such a great job.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MILLENNIUM DIGITAL COMMERCE ACT

Mr. THOMPSON. I ask that the Chair lay before the Senate a message from the House to accompany S. 761.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. THOMPSON. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate disagree to the amendments of the House, agree to the request for a conference with the House, and the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate.

Mr. REID. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

#### MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2285

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. President, I understand that S. 2285 is at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill for the first time.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2285) instituting a Federal fuels tax holiday.

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. President, I now ask for its second reading, and I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The bill will be read the second time on the next legislative day.

#### ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2000

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today it adjourn until the hour of 12 noon on Monday, March 27, 2000. I further ask consent that on Monday, immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate begin a period of morning business until 1:30 p.m. with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the exception for the following: the first 45 minutes under the control of Senator DURBIN, or his designee; the second 45 minutes under the control of Senator THOMAS, or his designee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.